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TO THE WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T SENSITIVE 281125Z FEB 74

FEBRUARY 28, 1974

HAKTO 21 IMMEDIATE

REF: TONAK 40

FOR SCOWCROFT FROM THE SECRETARY.

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO

GEORGE SHULTZ:

DEAR GEORGE:

WHILE I UNDERSTAND THE MERITS OF PROCEEDING WITH A  
COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON BRAZILIAN SHOE EXPORTS, I  
FEEL STRONGLY THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN POLICY REASONS  
FOR POSTPONEMENT NOW.

AS YOU KNOW, I DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE IN SOME DETAIL WITH  
GIBSON BARBOZA IN MEXICO CITY LAST WEEK. DURING THAT CONVERSATION  
I AGREED THAT WE WOULD HOLD UP ON ANY ACTION UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNMENT  
WAS IN OFFICE AND HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEM. TO REVERSE  
THAT POSITION NOW -- AND EVEN AN INVESTIGATION WOULD LOOK TO  
THE BRAZILIANS LIKE A REVERSE -- WOULD CLEARLY BE SEEN AS A  
VIOLATION OF MY WORD. FURTHER, IT WOULD PUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT  
INTO A VERY DIFFICULT TACTICAL POSITION OF SEEMING CONFRONTATION  
WITH US, MAKING ANY EVENTUAL CHANCE OF GETTING THE EXPORT  
SUBSIDY DROPPED LESS LIKELY.

THUS, I ASK THAT YOU NOT TAKE ANY ACTION UNTIL I RETURN TO  
WASHINGTON AND WE HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK. I WOULD, OF COURSE,  
HAVE NO OBJECTION SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO TELL THE CONGRESS THAT I  
HAVE ASKED YOU TO DELAY AND THAT WE INTEND TO PURSUE THE MATTER  
WITH THE NEW BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AFTER MARCH 15.

WARM REGARDS.

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State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

\* \* \* \* \* W H S R C O M M E N T \* \* \* \* \*

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SEC FILE

RECALLED

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